

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700080

A. List of Restoration Activities

GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Between December 2002 and June 2003, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Desert District (CDD), completed environmental impact statements and Records of Decision for five sub-regional amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA). These amendments designate a network of routes for Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) travel on BLM lands and call for closing and restoring many other routes on BLM lands. The El Centro Field Office within the California Desert District has been implementing restoration projects of closed routes since 2003 and the signing of the open routes to meet legal obligations and societal expectations for desert ecosystems that produce goods and services, including those for recreation and biological diversity, for generations to come.

The purpose of this grant application is to continue restoring the vegetation and surface features on closed routes and off route impacts within the Yuha Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and East Mesa areas (includes 3 ACEC's), the continued signing and maintenance of the route network, installation of informational kiosks, and continue the distributing recreational trail maps to the public. With this grant money the BLM can continue its efforts in improving OHV opportunities, wildlife habitat and maintaining the natural biological diversity of California desert ecosystems; and safeguarding public safety and human health and provide a thoroughly signed route network for OHV recreation. The restoration methods include a variety of techniques including: planting dead "nurse" plants (vertical and horizontal mulch), rocks, raking, revegetation, straw bales and other barriers, soil pitting and seed bank transfer, berms, grading, catchments, water bars and check dams, broadcast seeding, transplanting grasses, cholla propagation, and signing. Other methods may include: geotextile netting, and permeon application.

Estimated completion time for restoring the closed routes closed by the Western Colorado Routes of Travel plan (WECO) within the Yuha ACEC and East Mesa is 2012 and then continuous maintenance of the restored routes and of the open route network.

Yuha Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC):

The Yuha ACEC is approximately 25 miles west of the city of El Centro. The town of Ocotillo is the gateway point for recreation in the area. This important recreation and wildlife area is located within a two- to three-hour drive from Los Angeles, Orange County, Riverside, San Diego (CA) and Tucson and Phoenix (AZ). The Area is a popular and highly valued recreation resource that provides, in addition to OHV recreational driving, other recreational opportunities including hiking, horseback riding, wildlife and scenery viewing, picnicking, photography, rock collecting, hiking, nature study and environmental education, cultural interpretation, camping, sightseeing, and driving.

Its position on the international border with Mexico gives the area geopolitical significance. Border Patrol agents patrol the Yuha Desert intensively south of State Highway 98 to intercept illegal smuggling and immigration into the United States. However, the area is a fragile natural ecosystem with equally fragile prehistoric cultural resources found along the shores of ancient Lake Cahuilla. Opportunities abound to visit archaeological sites such as the Yuha Geoglyphs, or intaglios, and fossil-bearing outcrops such as the Yuha Desert Oyster Shell Beds and Fossil Canyon.

The Yuha Desert Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Area has one of the highest densities known of flat-tailed horned lizards, particularly on the east side.

East Mesa:

The East Mesa Management Area is located just west of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area and North of Interstate 8 approximately 25 miles west of Yuma AZ. Specific threats to resources have been to: (1) archaeological resources; (2) loss of wildlife habitat, particularly for the flat-tailed horned lizard and fringe toe lizard and (3) damage to soils, vegetation, and landscape vistas in the course of Border Patrol interdictions of illegal entries into the United States and in illegal cross-country travel by recreational vehicles.

NEPA/CEQA documentation is attached.

B. How the Proposed Project Relates to OHV Recreation

This restoration and signing project will help OHV enthusiasts to stay on legal routes by maintaining good trail signage and restoring closed routes and illegal impacts. The restored areas will then be less likely to draw the attention of OHV users hence more likely they will stay on the legal routes.

C. Size of Project Site

Yuha Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC):

The Yuha ACEC is 40,069 acres and is approximately 25 miles west of the city of El Centro. The town of Ocotillo is the gateway point for recreation in the area. This important recreation and wildlife area is located within a two- to three-hour drive from Los Angeles, Orange County, Riverside, San Diego (CA) and Tucson and Phoenix (AZ). The area is a popular and highly valued recreation resource that provides, in addition to OHV recreational driving, other recreational opportunities including hiking, horseback riding, wildlife and scenery viewing, picnicking, photography, rock collecting, hiking, nature study and environmental education, cultural interpretation, camping, sightseeing, and driving.

Its position on the international border with Mexico gives the area geopolitical significance. Border Patrol agents patrol the Yuha Desert intensively south of State Highway 98 to intercept illegal smuggling and immigration into the United States. However, the area is a fragile natural ecosystem with equally fragile prehistoric cultural resources found along the shores of ancient Lake Cahuilla. Opportunities abound to visit archaeological sites such as the Yuha Geoglyphs, or intaglios, and fossil-bearing outcrops such as the Yuha Desert Oyster Shell Beds and Fossil Canyon.

The Yuha Desert Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Area has one of the highest densities known of flat-tailed horned lizards, particularly on the east side.

East Mesa

The East Mesa project area is 42,768 acres and includes three ACEC's, Lake Cahuilla A and B and the East Mesa ACEC, this area is located just west of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area and North of Interstate 8 approximately 25 miles west of Yuma AZ. Specific threats to resources have been to: (1) archaeological resources; (2) loss of wildlife habitat, particularly for the flat-tailed horned lizard and Fringe Toe lizard and (3) damage to soils, vegetation, and landscape vistas in the course of Border Patrol interdictions of illegal entries into the United States and in illegal cross-country travel by recreational vehicles.

D. Monitoring and Methodology

SUCCESS CRITERIA FOR MONITORING

Successful restoration of closed trails on a site-by-site basis, project area, and an entire sub-region, will be evaluated to assess the "health" of a restored site and the overall health of a project area. The metrics for assessing the "health" of a restored site are:

- Intensity of user compliance/non-compliance
- Visual eradication of linear features
- Preservation of critical habitat
- type (potential habitat)
- Type of trail (motivation for compliance/non-compliance)
- Long-term compliance

Restoration projects will be evaluated as successful, if:

- At least 70% of restored sites remain unused by the public
- Vegetation recovery on the un-trampled sites is greater than un-restored sites and approaching natural vegetation densities and cover
- Linear features on these sites are effectively removed from the route network

Measuring the success of a closed and restored trail or trail segment will be determined through follow-up site visitation on a short-term and long-term basis to see if visual eradication of linear features has remained and no "fresh OHV tracks" are present. Where user non-compliance is high and restoration of closed trails is not occurring, alternative means of effectively closing the trail will be used. This may include, but is not limited to, using alternative methods to disguise closed trails, placing barriers at the entrances of closed trails and washes, signing, increased law enforcement presence, and combinations thereof.

Site monitoring will include photo documentation, restoration status, OHV compliance, and accelerated re-vegetation. Photo documentation is recorded for all sites and consists of pre-restoration and post-restoration (i.e. at time of restoration) site photos. Additional post-restoration photos, compliance monitoring, and vegetation monitoring will be conducted on randomly-selected sites, one year, three years, five years, and ten years after site restoration. Compliance monitoring will also occur on another randomly-selected subset of restored trails prior to and directly after heavy visitation OHV-use weekends (e.g. Thanksgiving, Easter, Memorial Day, etc.).

Initial monitoring includes general information such as: date, time, site reference number, monitor's name, photo reference, and site characteristics such as: width, line-of-sight, type, current OHV use and frequency, past management and vandalism, dominant plant species, and type of trail (e.g. hill climb, wash, etc.). Restoration monitoring records the restoration prescriptions for each site, meters restored, and person hours. The type of trail is divided into the following categories for future compliance monitoring: cross-country (level and hilly), hill climb (nearby and distant), parallel, corner cut, wash, severe denuded area, and cross trail.

E. List of Reports

None

F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews

None

G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area

Law Enforcement Rangers specifically patrol in the areas where restoration has occurred within the Yuha Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and East Mesa and in those locations where restoration is currently underway. Rangers will increase there patrols within the East Mesa ACEC as restoration continues there.

Rangers use various techniques to gain compliance from the public. Efforts vary from education by distribution of printed information and maps up to citations and possible arrests. Patrols are focused mainly on the weekends when visitation is highest, especially holiday weekends.

Additionally, contract labor crew members deliberately contact visitors while they are in the field performing restoration and members assist BLM compliance efforts by distributing maps and information about the area(s), explaining the restoration effort, and answer questions concerning rules and regulations, as they pertain to there location.

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1. Project-Specific Maps

Attachments:

[Yuha Restoration Project Site](#)
[East Mesa Restoration Project Site](#)

2. Project-Specific Photos

Attachments:

[WECO project photos](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office
Application: Restoration - WECO

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - El Centro Field Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	Restoration - WECO	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>Between December 2002 and June 2003, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Desert District (CDD), completed environmental impact statements and Records of Decision for five sub-regional amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan(CDCA). These amendments designate a network of routes for Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) travel on BLM lands and call for closing and restoring many other routes on BLM lands. The El Centro Field Office within the California Desert District has been implementing restoration projects of closed routes since 2003 and the signing of the open routes to meet legal obligations and societal expectations for desert ecosystems that produce goods and services, including those for recreation and biological diversity, for generations to come.</p> <p>The purpose of this grant application is to continue restoring the vegetation and surface features on closed routes and off route impacts within the Yuha Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and East Mesa areas (includes 3 ACEC's), the continued signing and maintenance of the route network, installation of informational kiosks,and continue the distributing recreational trail maps to the public. With this grant money the BLM can continue its efforts in improving OHV opportunities, wildlife habitat and maintaining the natural biological diversity of California desert ecosystems; and safeguarding public safety and human health and provide a thoroughly signed route network for OHV recreation. The restoration methods include a variety of techniques including: planting dead "nurse" plants (vertical and horizontal mulch),rocks, raking, revegetation, straw bales and other barriers, soil pitting and seed bank transfer, berms, grading, catchments, water bars and check dams, broadcast seeding, transplanting grasses, cholla propagation, and signing. Other methods may include:, geotextile netting, and permeon application.</p> <p>Estimated completion time for restoring the closed routes closed by the Western Colorado Routes of Travel plan (WECO) within the Yuha ACEC and East Mesa is 2012 and then continuous maintenance of the restored routes and of the open route network.</p> <p>Yuha Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC):</p> <p>The Yuha ACEC is approximately 25 miles west of the city of El Centro. The town of Ocotillo is the gateway point for recreation in the area. This important recreation and wildlife area is located within a two- to three-hour drive from Los Angeles, Orange County, Riverside, San Diego (CA) and Tucson and Phoenix (AZ). The Area is a popular and highly valued recreation resource that provides, in addition to OHV recreational driving, other recreational opportunities including hiking, horseback riding, wildlife and scenery viewing, picnicking, photography, rock collecting, hiking, nature study and environmental education, cultural interpretation, camping, sightseeing, and driving.</p> <p>Its position on the international border with Mexico gives the area geopolitical significance. Border Patrol agents patrol the Yuha Desert intensively south of State Highway 98 to intercept illegal smuggling and immigration into the United States. However, the area is a fragile natural ecosystem with equally fragile prehistoric cultural resources found along the shores of ancient Lake Cahuilla. Opportunities abound to visit archaeological sites such as the Yuha Geoglyphs, or intaglios, and fossil-bearing outcrops such as the Yuha Desert Oyster Shell Beds and Fossil Canyon.</p> <p>The Yuha Desert Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Area has one of the highest densities known of flat-tailed horned lizards, particularly on the east side.</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office
Application: Restoration - WECO

6/2/2009

	<p>East Mesa:</p> <p>The East Mesa Management Area is located just west of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area and North of Interstate 8 approximately 25 miles west of Yuma AZ. Specific threats to resources have been to: (1) archaeological resources; (2) loss of wildlife habitat, particularly for the flat-tailed horned lizard and fringe toe lizard and (3) damage to soils, vegetation, and landscape vistas in the course of Border Patrol interdictions of illegal entries into the United States and in illegal cross-country travel by recreational vehicles.</p> <p>NEPA/CEQA documentation is attached.</p>
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Archeologist	3.000	3875.000	MOS	6,000.00	5,625.00	11,625.00
	Recreation Planner	6.000	3875.000	MOS	13,000.00	10,250.00	23,250.00
	Other-Biologist	3.000	3875.000	MOS	6,000.00	5,625.00	11,625.00
	Total for Staff				25,000.00	21,500.00	46,500.00
2	Contracts						
	Restoration Crew Notes : The restoration crew would work on restoring closed and illegal routes throuh a variety of techniques. Additionally the crew would assist in signing and site monitoring and handing out of maps and information concerning their work and the BLM.	7.000	89000.000	MOS	270,000.00	353,000.00	623,000.00
	Survey Notes : Surveys would be for cultural and archeological sites that may be disturbed by the restoration work. Surveys would be contracted out via competative bid and all work done would be reviewed by our staff archeolgist. No restoration would occur prior to the surveys.	6.000	10000.000	MOS	60,000.00	0.00	60,000.00
	Other-Park Ranger	6.000	2700.000	MOS	16,200.00	0.00	16,200.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office
Application: Restoration - WECCO

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Total for Contracts				346,200.00	353,000.00	699,200.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Route Markers	1000.000	19.000	EA	15,000.00	4,000.00	19,000.00
	Signs	150.000	35.000	EA	3,000.00	2,250.00	5,250.00
	Rakes and Showels	12.000	15.000	EA	180.00	0.00	180.00
	Trash Bags	5000.000	0.500	EA	1,000.00	1,500.00	2,500.00
	Steel Post	100.000	14.000	EA	1,000.00	400.00	1,400.00
	Information Kiosks	2.000	3300.000	EA	6,600.00	0.00	6,600.00
	Other-WECCO Maps and brochures	3000.000	1.000	EA	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
	Other-Decals and miscelleineous supplies	5000.000	1.000	EA	3,000.00	2,000.00	5,000.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				31,780.00	11,150.00	42,930.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	4x4 Vehicle	6.000	1000.000	MOS	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
	Printing Notes : Printing would be the re-printing of the Western Colorado Routes of Travel map(WECCO) which is distributed to the public to help them know where the routes are and how to access them legally. Maps are also given out to various businesses for distribution as well.	3000.000	1.000	EA	1,500.00	1,500.00	3,000.00
7	Administrative Costs						
	Administrative Costs-GIS input of data	2.000	1000.000	MOS	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
	Total Program Expenses				406,480.00	393,150.00	799,630.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office
Application: Restoration - WECO

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					406,480.00	393,150.00	799,630.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					406,480.00	393,150.00	799,630.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office
Application: Restoration - WECO

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	25,000.00	21,500.00	46,500.00	Other will be for the biologist
2	Contracts	346,200.00	353,000.00	699,200.00	The restoration crew would work on restoring closed and illegal routes throuh a variety of techniques. Additionally the crew would assist in signing and site monitoring and handing out of maps and information concerning their work and the BLM. Surveys would be for cultural and archeological sites that may be disturbed by the restoration work. Surveys would be contracted out via competative bid and all work done would be reviewed by our staff archeolgist. No restoration would occur prior to the surveys.
3	Materials / Supplies	31,780.00	11,150.00	42,930.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	1,500.00	1,500.00	3,000.00	Printing would be the re-printing of the Western Colorado Routes of Travel map(WECO) which is distributed to the public to help them know where the routes are and how to access them legally. Maps are also given out to various businesses for distribution as well.
7	Administrative Costs	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	
Total Program Expenses		406,480.00	393,150.00	799,630.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		406,480.00	393,150.00	799,630.00	

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office
Application: Restoration - WECO

6/2/2009

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	406,480.00	393,150.00	799,630.00	
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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

There are no wetlands or navigable waters in the project area. Completion of this project will benefit the Flat Tailed Horned Lizard (FTHL) which is a BLM sensitive species in the project area. The FTHL will benefit by improved habitat conditions resulting from restoration efforts and vehicles staying on open OHV routes. A number of State listed and BLM Sensitive Species occur in the project area including, The project area falls within habitat for the federal listed, Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep, Yuma clapper rail, the southwestern willow flycatcher, and the least Bell's vireo and the California listed California black rail. The Federal listed arroyo toad is found in a few sand washes in the western portion of the project area.

The BLM follows a set of Best Management Practices that minimize potential adverse effects to species of concern for BLM and the California Department of Fish and Game. These Practices are made available to all partners, permittee, and contractors. BLM lands except those specifically designated as OHV open areas, all vehicle traffic must remain on existing OHV routes.

BLM employees and contractors:

Must take all possible measures to avoid vehicle collisions with wildlife or vegetation.

Pack out all trash, including food items.

Disturb as little vegetation as possible when they hike across arid land terrain.

Do not destroy vegetation unless the vegetation sample is part of a research or inventory project.

Handle wildlife only when it is necessary for completing a research or inventory project or as a part of training for a monitoring protocol.

Must obtain the necessary permits for monitoring, inventory or research from the lead wildlife biologist at the BLM California Desert District office, from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and from the California Department of Fish and Game.

May not consume alcoholic beverages during work hours and in government sponsored camps. Alcoholic beverages may not be transported in government vehicles.

Never touch unidentifiable objects, as they could be dangerous or toxic.

Never to enter mines or other confined spaces unless they have completed the necessary BLM training on mine safety and on bat biology.

Adhere to the posted speed limit at all times when driving. When driving off-highway, the vehicle must drive as road conditions will allow, and in no case exceed 20 mph.

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

We do not expect significant impacts from activities proposed in this project. The type and frequency of recreation will be unchanged with the exception of decreased use of closed routes and less cross country travel. All proposed activities are expected to result in a net benefit for the area's natural resources. Environmental impacts were discussed in the Western Colorado Route Designation Plan (WECO) and the WECO/NECO Restoration EA. See attached documents on the NEPA/CEQA documentation section.

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

We expect beneficial effects from route restoration and decreased off route of travel. High erosion potential areas are a priority for restoration activities. Much of the project area has stable soils and flat topography. The purpose of the project is to improve habitat conditions including soil health and visual resources. Installation of carsonsite posts has not been shown to contribute to soil erosion. Restoration activities are expected to have little effect concerning soil erosion.

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

There will be no damage to scenic resource within the project area.

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

The actions proposed in the project will lead to much higher compliance on the designated routes, but we do not expect a significant change in the number of users or the general area of use. We are not implementing any new closures.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[WECO Restoration EA](#)
[WECO Plan](#)
[WECO ROD 1/31/2003](#)

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Domestic water supply (4 points)
☒ Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points)
☐ Stream or other watercourse (3 points)
☒ Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)
☒ Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [4]
☐ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species
☒ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species [2]

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

If open ohv routes do not get signed and closed routes do not get rehabilitated, there will be continued off-route of travel use disturbing the Cultural and Historic sites. Off-route travel has resulted in significant damage to Cultural Resources in the past including Geoglyphs, Village Sites, Cremation Sites and Ceremonial Sites.

Travelling off-route results in degradation to desert crust and biotic soils which leads to accelerated erosion.

Several routes that are designated closed have been washed out during the infrequent large rainfall events throughout the desert. A small segment of the OHV community contributes to route proliferation when they seek a new route around impassible areas, which leads to vehicle incursions into the wilderness and other degradation of ACEC's and Sensitive Wildlife Habitats which negatively impacts the Flat Tailed Horned and Fringe toe lizards which are listed BLM sensitive species.

3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. Reason for the Project 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)
☒ Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)
☐ OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)
☐ Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)
☐ Management decision (1 point)
☐ Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)
☐ Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

Western Colorado Routes of Travel Plan.
Ca.Desert Conservation Area Plan as amended

4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 10

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
- ☒ Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
- ☒ Use of native plants and materials
- ☒ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
- ☒ Educational signage
- ☐ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

Site monitoring will occur from routine law enforcement patrols as well as tasks performed from non-law enforcement for normal operational duties as assigned.

Construction of barriers will occur upon documentation of site incursions (mainly wilderness incursions).

Use of native plants will be utilized during closed route rehabilitation.

Educational signing will occur on all of the designated "open" routes of travel.

Identification of Open Routes of Travel will be distributed through maps, free of charge, and through the BLM webpage.

The BLM follows a set of Best Management Practices that minimize potential adverse effects to species of concern for BLM and the California Department of Fish and Game. These Practices are made available to all partners, permittee, and contractors. BLM lands except those specifically designated as OHV open areas, all vehicle traffic must remain on existing OHV routes.(A complete list of practices are available at the BLM, ECFO).

5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

Western Colorado Routes of Travel Plan (WECO), 2003

Restoration and Signing for the Western Colorado Routes of Travel Plan (WECO) and Northern and Eastern Colorado Management Plan (NECO) areas within the El Centro Resource Area, 2004

6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 2

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
- ☐ Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)
- ☒ Other Grant funding (2 points)
- ☐ OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

7. Public Input - Q 7.

7. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
☐ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

During the development of the WECO Route of travel plan we had meetings with interested parties and held two public meetings gathering input for the plan. Calls were also made to interested parties such as the U.S. Border Patrol, Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council, etc.

8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Student Conservation Association
Sierra Club
U.S. Border Patrol Explorer Scouts
Desert Survivors

9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.

9. Scientific and cultural studies will 1

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)
☐ Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
☐ Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)
☒ Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

Cultural surveys will be conducted before any restoration occurs. These surveys would be added to the overall cultural survey map for our resource area therefore providing a better understanding and knowledge of the history of this area.

10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

The need for a designated route system was needed and with the signing of the Western Colorado Routes of Travel Plan the issue was resolved.

11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.

11.

Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ Greater than 10 acres (5 points)
- ☐ 1 – 10 acres (3 points)
- ☐ Less than 1 acre (1 points)
- ☐ No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)